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*editorial*

# What Is Nixon Waiting For?

*THE PRG's 7-point peace initiative of July 1st 1971 is having great repercussion in the United States and the world. Public opinion regards it as a good chance to end the war to open the way to a break through at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, bring the US expeditionary troops and captured militarymen home, an opportunity to weld US domestic situation. Nixon is being pressed to study and respond in time and seriously to the PRG's proposals so as to restore peace in Viet Nam and Indochina. The* Chicago Daily News *pointed out that it is now necessary to set a deadline for the total withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam and Anthony Lewis wrote that the US government must react adequately to the war-weary United States' requirement.*

*BUT so far, there has been no positive indication on the American side. At the 120th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US delegate still resorted to nonsensical allegations to evade an answer to the RSVN PRG's 7-point peace initiative, while the delegate of the Saigon administration rehashed the erroneous arguments of the so-called "Nixon's 5-point plan." People still remember that when the PRG's 7-point peace offer was made public, the US government though having to admit that it contains "positive factors," asserted on the other hand that the US would "accept no arrangement which would turn the 17 million people of South Viet Nam over to the communists." "Nothing new," Thieu noted for his part and kept shouting for war. There will be no solution to the war until 1973, he clamoured. Recently in his speech at Kansas City, Nixon said that he has "nothing new to say on Viet Nam" and "regardless of what happens on the negotiation front," the US will pursue the "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam. He added that the pullout of American troops should be made in such a way that would help establish a durable and lasting peace in South East Asia and the Pacific. The Nixon administration further spreads the tendancious rumour that "some areas of the 7-point proposal are not clear" and that there are traps in several points, including the one regarding the release of captured militarymen.*


(Continued page 2)



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## Dear Readers,

**To keep our readers informed in time with the all-sided development of the South Vietnamese people's successful resistance, from July 1971 *SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE* will come out weekly.**

**So far we have constantly been enjoying all over the five continents heartfelt support from our readers to whom goes our sincere gratitude.**

**We are convinced that given the new situation and the progress made by our paper, we will continue to benefit unreserved assistance from our readers whose suggestions and criticisms are warmly welcomed. We wish you good health and much happiness. May the relations between you and the SVN NFL's paper be ever consolidated and developed.**

*THE EDITORS*

# What Is Nixon Waiting For?

(Continued from page 1)

*Nixon — Thieu's preposterous statements and those of their delegates at the Paris Conference, prove that the US government is still unwilling to answer seriously the PRG's 7-point peace initiative.*

*WORLD opinion requires that the US put an end to its war of aggression, bring all its troops home and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference. Because — as the US Defense Department revealed it — it is the US which is the aggressor, which has been interfering in and invading systematically the two zones of Viet Nam, sowing many disasters to the Vietnamese and American peoples.*

*But so far, the Nixon administration has persistingly been repudiating these logical and reasonable demands. They ask for mutual withdrawal which essentially means equating the aggressors with those who resist aggression. At the same time, they clamour that "the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is not negotiable" which actually means that they still cling obstinately to the present bellicose group in office headed by Thieu, so as to use them as a tool for the implementation of the "Vietnamization" of the war.*

*His stand regarding these two basic issues shows that Nixon schemes to prolong the war and the US military occupation of South Viet Nam in an attempt to turn it into a US military base and a new-type colony, and perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam.*

*This in fact constitutes a big obstacle to the peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. It is also the very reason why Nixon obdurately rebuffs the correct and logical demands of the RSVN PRG in its 10-point overall solution. To cover up his aggressive and warlike design; Nixon recently stated that as long as the "American POWs" are not set free and as long as the Thieu government is not strong enough to defend itself, the US will have to keep its troops in South Viet Nam, thereby laying bare his brutal and bellicose character. Senator Birch Bayh noted that apparently Nixon makes the release of "POWs" a condition for the total pullout of US troops from South Viet Nam. But even if the adversary accepted to set free the "POWs", Nixon would not withdraw all American GIs as long as the Saigon administration was not strengthened. It is obvious that Nixon is exposing his dark design to maintain the present warlike group in power headed by Nguyen Van Thieu and use it as an instrument to dominate South Viet Nam. He also reveals his perfidious trick of utilizing the "POWs" issue as a trump card to elude the question of withdrawing American troops from South Viet Nam.*

*Hence, the war goes on fiercer and fiercer, spreads to the whole of Indochina and the Paris Conference on Viet Nam remains stalemated.*

*IN such a situation, once again upholding its goodwill and continuous efforts to find a correct solution to the South Viet Nam problem, the RSVN PRG has put forward the 7-point peace initiative. It is not accidental that the whole progressive world warmly acclaims and unanimously supports that initiative, regarding it as a good chance to end the war.*

*Just like the previous one, this 7-point peace initiative not only reflects the Vietnamese people's sacred national interests, but also pays due consideration for the aspirations for peace of the American people who want to end the war rapidly and bring immediately their boys (including captured militarymen) home.*

*As Minister Madame Nguyen Thi Binh pointed out at the 120th session of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam: because the US has waged an aggressive war against the South Vietnamese people, as a matter of course it must put an end to aggression and rapatriate all its troops. However, to show its goodwill for peace, the RSVN PRG has declared to ensure safety and dignity to the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam of US troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp in 1971.*

*The question of captured militarymen which is one of the war after-math issues, is usually to be settled after the end of the war.*

*However, the RSVN PRG has proposed that in case the US withdraws from South Viet Nam all its troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp in 1971, then the totality of militarymen of all parties and of the civilians captured in the war (including American pilots captured in North Viet Nam) will be released. These two operations will begin on the same date and will end on the same date.*

*With regard to the power in South Viet Nam, if the US government really respects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, it must cease backing the bellicose group headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, and stop all manoeuvres, including fraudulent tricks in elections, aimed at maintaining the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu, so as all South Vietnamese social strata may form in Saigon a new administration favoring peace, independence, neutrality and democracy, which will enter into serious talks with the GRP to settle the following questions: to form a broad three-segment government of national concord that will assume its functions during the period between the restoration of peace and the holding of general elections. A cease-fire will be observed immediately between the SVN PLAF and the armed forces of the Saigon administration as soon as a government of national concord is formed; to take concrete measures with required guarantees so as to prohibit all acts of terror, reprisal and discrimination against persons having collaborated with one or the other party, to ensure every democratic liberty to the South Vietnamese people and improve their conditions of living.*

*THE point is the Nixon administration must respond in time and seriously to the RSVN PRG's logical and reasonable 7-point peace proposals: it must set a deadline for the total withdrawal from South Viet Nam of US troops and those of the other foreign countries in the US camp, cease backing the bellicose group now in office in Saigon headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, instead of shirking these two fundamental issues. The South Vietnamese people, the SVN NFL and the PRG constantly and ardently want to settle the South Viet Nam problem peacefully and are concentrating all their efforts toward that objective. But the Nixon administration must not misunderstand the South Vietnamese peoples' goodwill and determination. Let Nixon know that if he stubbornly refuses to get out of the war in safety and dignity, there remains a single way before him: the one which is leading him rapidly to failure.*

*As a Swedish MP, Mr. John Takman, put it: Today, the whole world is conscious that if the war still continues, if Vietnamese and Americans still get killed, if American GIs, including US pilots captured in North Viet Nam, are still detained, all the responsibility rests upon Nixon.*

*It is time for Nixon to give a serious answer. What is he waiting for?*

*The U.S. dollar in distress*

# SAIGON CHEERS PRG PEACE OFFER

The new peace initiative of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam submitted to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam on July 1, 1971 has been heartily welcomed in cities of South Viet Nam, especially in Saigon.

Despite the black out and distortions by the US Saigon security and information organs, the gist of the proposal has been reported in the papers with due seriousness. The opposition paper "*Dien Tin*" (Express) noted that the said initiative would embarrass Washington. People massed in front of newspapers-stalls and only bought the papers which commented on this event with goodwill and in agreement with their aspirations. As for those which misrepresented it they were torn to pieces by intellectuals, prominent personalities, students, workers and religious believers.

At the workers' living quarters, markets, schools, enterprises..., from the city's centre to the outskirts of its 11 districts, everywhere people of all walks of life have been holding heated discussions on the new peace plan, and at the same time making denunciations of the warlike and brutal US — quislings. The Buddhist priest, Head of the Hoa Dao Institude of the An Quang Sect, described "the PRG's initiative as an incentive for President Nixon and a cause of perplexity for the Saigon administration."

The Saigonese extolled it as a generous gesture of a generous people in a winning position. Public opinion held that while the US and its hirelings had been suffering heavy setbacks in South Laos, Cambodia and South Viet Nam, their "pacification" plan was threatened with extensive disintegration, the US — puppet ranks were torn by inner dissension and their economy and finance almost dislocated the PRG's new initiative provided them with an alternative.

Armymen and office employees have also been debating with keen interest the overture which they regard as sound and consistent with the entire South Vietnamese people's present dear hopes.

At barracks and encampments, Saigon troops insisted on the acceptance of the PRG program. Even the Saigon vice-president Nguyen Cao Ky had to declare that he had no objection to the demand for a clearcut timetable for US troop pullout.

Foreign correspondents and reporters in Saigon remarked that without going deeper into the matter, the masses' initial reactions alone were enough to show the success of the opponent (RSVN PRG) and the setback of the government (Thieu administration).

A prominent personality in Saigon stressed: "The PRG initiative carries in itself the strength of much conviction, but we cannot stop here. People in Saigon and other cities through their immediate actions must acquire new strength to be able to stand up to all eventual trials."

*On the Political Front in June*

# Popular Discontent Rises

LAST June, the people's drive against induction and for democratic freedoms and social welfare, and denunciation of the Saigon authorities' traitorous and reactionary nature was in full swing in all cities and areas still under enemy control in South Viet Nam.

Workers and people of different walks of life in Saigon and other cities and towns closed in their ranks in their battle against exorbitant taxes and dismissals of workers, for wagelifts and other vital rights. The actions erupted in almost all factories and enterprises, from cotton and jute companies to rubber and chemical firms, from shipping and freight-handling concerns to hotels, from popular restaurants to small traders' stalls... The unrest not only surged up in Saigon, Cholon and Gia Dinh but also spread to Bien Hoa, Bac Lieu and Phu Bai (Hue) provincial capitals. Initial successes were recorded by workers at the Esso and Shell Companies against arbitrary sacking and temporary dismissals as a result of the trade unions' close solidarity and combined actions and the broad masses' support.

In coordination with the workers and labouring people's actions, several mass organizations such as the Pupils and Students' Associations, the Committee for the People's Right To Live, the Committee for a Better Prison Regime, the progressive national forces, the organizations of Saigon disabled armymen actively took part in the drive. They repeatedly held meetings and demonstrations, and issued statements against the Thieu - Ky - Khiem administration's repression and brutalities visited on prisoners at Chi Hoa jail, against ill-treatment of Vietnamese residents forcibly repatriated from Cambodia, and against persecution of leading members of the above-said organizations, and for the punishment of the GIs showing disregard for Vietnamese lives and their pull-out from South Viet Nam.

In the meantime, the resistance against draft also gained in intensity and magnitude.

To fill the gaps caused by the ever-mounting casualty toll on the Indochina battlefield, and actively serve US "Vietnamization," the Saigon administration on the one hand conducted police round-ups in many province and district capitals in the Mekong Delta and East Nam Bo to rake manpower. People of over 50 years old and youngster at the age of 12 or 13 and even women were marched off to military training camps and organized into "civilian defence" units. On the other hand, they promoted the existing ones into "civil guards" and the "civil guards" into regular troops.

To counter such vicious enemy schemes, youths and people in the said areas strengthened their solidarity and waged fierce fights to keep back young people or help them evade conscription and take them to the liberated areas to join in the patriotic war of resistance.

Students in Can Tho and Saigon staged teach-ins to discuss measures against the militarization of schools, and for its cancellation, and protested against the 2-month compulsory military training of students in the coming Summer vacations.

The students' and people's impetuous actions benefited from the approval and support of a large number of Saigon officers and men. In Can Tho, hundreds of civil guards fought back police agents on an impressing mission. In Long An, over 100 "civilian defence" men refused their issues of guns or returned them to oppose their conversion into combat troops. In Tay Ninh, a "civilian defence" group commander shot dead 3 wicked thugs and wounded 2 others of the "Eagle" police force when they came to upgrade the local "civilian defence" force to "civil guards."

Also attention-arresting was the peoples and opposition parties' movement to bare Thieu-Ky's fascist nature and deceptive manoeuvres in the wrangle for the monopoly to serve the US in the coming presidential elections. Public opinion condemned Thieu's framing the Vinh Binh case and arrest of an opposition M.P. and use of bribes and threats to get his anti-democratic "presidential electoral law" endorsed by the Saigon "House of Representatives."

People in the 6 provinces of West Nam Bo also exposed the traitorous nature of Thieu's recent campaigning trip. Many people bluntly told his men that Thieu "did no good to the people and only invited the US in to make their life ever more miserable."

Despite its increasing setbacks at the hands of the people and opposition parties, the Saigon administration will further reveal its fascist nature as a US agent. It has shrunk from no crimes to repress, and retaliate on, the people, hoping to stamp out their resistance. But it has only poured more oil on the flame of hatred now fiercely flaring up in the enemy-held areas, which will finally burn it down together with its American bosses.

A! THI

★

*Buddhist mothers praying for peace and the fate of their dear ones*

## THIEU STILL UNDER A RUNNING CROSS FIRE

*THIEU and company are trumpeting the law on presidential elections of the Saigon regime, passed by the Lower House on June 3 with a majority of 101 against 21 votes.*

*How was it rammed through? Saigon's* Thoi Dai Moi *(New Times) reported: "A number of representatives stood up to protest against an illegal and fraudulent procedure which had altered the result of the vote. But no sooner had they risen than Thieu's men recorded their gesture as a sign of approval... There is no more patent proof of a premeditated fraud." Another Saigon paper,* Xay Dung *(Construction), said that Thieu's electoral bill had been passed in a "variegated confusion, tragic and comic at the same time, boyish, if not childish, in character."*

*That was how Thieu paved the way for the "presidential elections!" According to the law, every candidate should be run by 40 senators or representatives or 100 provincial or municipal councillors; every ticket should deposit 2 million* dongs *in the Treasury which would not be returned to the owner should it win less than 20 per cent of the total votes. With such stipulations Thieu's 181/70 CH law challenges the constitution of his own regime. It is aimed at disqualifying possible opposition candidates.*

*With the passage of this law Thieu dealt a stunning blow at his adversaries. Wrote the daily* Cong Luan *(Public Opinion): "Neither Vice President Ky nor General Duong Van Minh will be able to gather the required number of supporters, and Thieu will only have to run a walk-over."*

*All that explains why the presidential election law has been meeting with sharp criticisms in Saigon. Its undemocratic, deceptive, arbitrary, fascist nature is all too transparent. For the so-called Constitution of the Second Republic itself, though demagogically, does recognize a modicum of "democratic principles" such as: "national sovereignty belongs to the entire people" (article 2, provision 1), "all citizens are equal" (article 2, provision 2), "every citizen has the right to vote, run for the elections and take part in public affairs on an equal footing" (article 2, provision 13), and so on. The rigorous requirements of the new law which will bar opposition candidates contradict those very principles, which Thieu himself had acknowledged. One still remembers that in May 1967, as chairman of the "State Management Committee," he declared that "article 7, provision 10 requiring that any presidential candidate be presented by 30 people elected representatives, is undemocratic and unconstitutional." And now that Thieu is in power their number has been raised to 40! Worse still, Thieu and company strictly control the Supreme Court, which will not quash the law if protest is lodged against its procedurally irregular passage by the Lower House as provided by the Constitution.*

*Quite clearly, the Constitution of the Saigon regime is but a scrap of paper and the electoral law, invalid as it is, a farce on liberty, democracy and justice. "The Saigon Lower House," Representative Thong commented, "is a den of highwaymen, a den for gambling on democracy"* (Duoc Nha Nam, *Viet Nam Torch). Many renowned Saigon intellectuals, including lawyers, termed the electoral law concocted by Thieu and his men as a "deception" and a "fraud."*

*How could it be otherwise? How could there be fair elections, so long as American soldiers remain in South Viet Nam, so long as the polling is organized by an administration whose survival depends on a foreign power?*

*Thieu is no stranger at all to the Vietnamese and world progressives. He has been fostered and trained by the US into a client, whereas the Saigon regime, also installed by the US, thwarts the aspirations and will of the people and flouts their sacred rights.*

*Thieu has made tens of thousands of families separated, parted husbands from wives, children from fathers and mothers. And while sufferings continue to pile up, he purposely creates an artificial atmosphere of peace, pleasure and prosperity with gauds and fleshpots, indecent dances, beauty contest and hippies' festivals...*

*If as the arch enemy of the people hated by his countrymen and opposition factions, Thieu is not yet ousted from the "Independence Palace," it is simply because his Yankee masters still need his services. Together with Ky, he is credited with having invited American troops into South Viet Nam. He has excelled Ky by selling out Cam Ranh to the US, and, recently, by allowing foreign companies to survey and exploit South Viet Nam's oil resources and to import and export oil taxfree. For such loyalty to US imperialism Thieu will not be short of money to buy votes in the forthcoming elections.*

*It's, however, too soon for Thieu to exult. For American protection and his own manoeuvres to block the way to opposition candidates, he is not yet out of the woods.*

N.C.T.

# More Feats in the *HIGH PLATEAUX*

ON the South Viet Nam battlefield, the High Plateaux is a most heroic front credited with a series of exploits. Over the past six months the armed forces and people there have fought many great successful battles: the Ngoc To Ba engagement, in the first four days of March where main force battalions of the Saigon army were knocked out and two thirds of the mercenaries captured; the Ngoc Rinh Rua clash in the first days of April, where six enemy battalions got wiped out or badly mauled and fire base No. 6 (Peak 1001) levelled; the Ngoc Bo Bieng siege and rush in the last days of May of fire base No. 5 (Peak 1338) where the enemy admitted "having suffered heavy losses" and "its High Command made no bones of its repeated bitter setbacks" (*AFP*, June 19, 1971)... The High Plateaux armed forces and people have assailed hundreds of positions including military subsectors, command posts, logistic bases, airfields, garrisons and encampments. Over the past six months they have wiped out or taken prisoner more than 15,000 enemy troops (including 417 GIs and tens of field officers).

Along with such devastating actions, the High Plateaux armed forces and people have pushed guerilla warfare, and checked the US - Saigon "pacification."

The guerilla units and regional forces have mounted hundreds of operations on many "strategic hamlets," settlements around towns, district centres and major arteries, helping tens of thousands of people from various nationalities demolish strategic hamlets, blot out puppet bases, break the enemy grip and wrest back control over wide areas. Together with the resounding feats of the Kontum armed forces and people, during a wave of attacks against Phu Nhon military subsector in mid-March the Liberation Armed Forces assisted the population in pulling down tens of strategic hamlets on Roads 14 and 7 on an area of 250 square kilometres. In the first four months of this year, over 17,000 people from various nationalities again became masters of their land.

Thus, the key areas of "Vietnamization" have been hit, many enemy forces and war means wiped out, the collapse of the puppet army accelerated and US — Saigon predicament in this region worsened.

Moreover, the enemy outer perimeter has been shaken, this strategy of "containment from a long distance" and their scheme to strike at the Viet Nam — Cambodia — Laos border foiled.

While the Saigon troops have been disintegrating after their reverses on Highway 9—Khe Sanh—Southern Laos, Roads 4 and 7 on the Cambodian battlefield, the High Plateaux combatants have been striking hard, wiping out adverse main forces in solid positions on high peaks, putting out of action enemy reinforcements, attacking their rear bases, destroying their storages and communications, wrecking vehicles and aircraft..., encircling then splitting the enemy to knock them down.

Over the past 6 months, in armed and political actions coupled with uprisings, the High Plateaux people and combatants have again given proof of their indomitable tradition, warm patriotism, unshakable unity and deep hatred for the enemy.

On this heroic battle front, a "key pacification area," more humiliating setbacks are in store for the US and its Saigon strawmen.

# THE BATTLE ON NGOC RINH RUA

ON April 1st 1971, the PLAF of Kontum province rained rocket and artillery shells on the enemy base on Peak 1001 (called Fire-Base Six by the Americans) as well as the artillery sites and airbases in Dakto, Playcan, Dak Mot, Tan Canh and Tri Le.

In the meantime, the PLAF anti-aircraft units wove a dense interdiction fire against enemy aircraft trying to approach Peak 1001.

After the artillery barrages, the PLAF infantry cut through the barbed fences and quickly overpowered enemy resistance with carbines, grenades and bayonets.

By 9 a.m., the puppet troops on Peak 1001 being threatened with complete annihilation, the US sent in aircraft to drop bombs wantonly on the hill, inflicting heavy additional losses on the garrisoned force.

By 11 a.m., the PLAF completely seized control of the hill after wiping out or capturing nearly 260 enemy soldiers including some "American advisors." They seized or wrecked 4 artillery pieces and nearly 1,000 cannons shells of 105, shot down 2 helicopters, captured 70 guns, 7 radio-transmitters and a large quantity of war materials.

At 2 p.m., US planes roared in wave after wave, bombing and strafing the hill intensively to destroy every trace of the puppets' defeat including the dead and wounded soldiers lying all over the ground and to prepare the landing of reinforcements.

At 14:30 helicopters of the American 173rd Airborne Brigade lifted in the puppet 41st Regiment from the plains of Central Viet Nam. But they immediately ran into a murderous ground-fire that brought down 5 helicopters, killing all the occupants.

On the morning of April 2, the enemy situation was more critical after 2 Saigon battalions sent in as reinforcements from Dakto had been intercepted by the PLAF about two kilometres from Peak 1001.

For seven hours, the PLAF pinned down the 2 battalions in a jungled area while another battalion dropped on Peak 1001 dared not venture to their rescue.

At night both battalions fled through the jungles and rallied on Peak 720 about 10km southeast of Peak 1001, leaving behind 350 dead.

On the morning of April 7, the US-Saigon Command ordered the 53rd Multi-Battalion unit in Dakto to go and relieve the 41st Regiment. But this column was stopped short when it came three kilometres close to Peak 1001. 8 more helicopters were shot down and many enemy soldiers were wiped out or captured. The 53rd multi-battalion unit fled back to Dakto.

The PLAF's encirclement was tightened further and further around Peak 1001 and Peak 702. Braving intense air bombing including B.52's, the PLAF held fast to their positions, preventing the beleaguered troops from coming out of their bunker. At the same time, PLAF artillery continued to bombard the enemy in Playcan, Tan Canh and Dakto and their fire support bases in the surroundings.

On April 13, in the morning, the sky became clearer, but the morning mist still lingered on the hill. With active artillery support, the liberation shock fighters, bayonet at the ready, broke through the enemy wire fences, attacked the base heart. The four 105 mm howitzers had become useless, as no puppet gunner dared come out to man the guns under PLAF mortar pounding. The frightened puppet gunners emerged from their shelters and asked for mercy.

After the first wave of assault, the liberation fighters had occupied part of the hill. Enemy planes howled madly and tried in vain to dislodge the liberation fighters.

At 10 a.m. the hill was completely overrun.

By these impetuous attacks, from March 31 to April 13, according to incomplete figures, the PLAF on the Northern Kontum front wiped out or heavily trounced 6 enemy battalions and shattered all the rescue operations of the Saigon army, killed or captured over 1,600 enemy troops including many US "advisors" and Saigon officers. They shot down or destroyed 34 aircraft, collected nearly 300 firearms among them 4 105mm artillery pieces and more than 60 transceivers, and a large quantity of war material.

*in the first half of 1971*

# New Steady Advances in South Viet Nam

TO shift the land war burden over to the Saigon army, in the first months of 1971, the US command did its best to carry out an ambitious big military plan. This period was the highest peak of the "Vietnamization" strategy since the "Nixon war" began two years ago.

The US imperialists launched simultaneously two large-scale operations in an attempt to win a decisive military victory, to highlight the Saigon army's role of "backbone" of "Vietnamization."

The actions were first the invasion of Southern Laos involving Saigon mobile strategic forces composed of "crack" divisions and units of the general reserve forces heavily equipped and closely coordinating with the US ground force, artillery and air force, the second operation was marked by a sweep northeast of Cambodia deploying all the regular troops of the "Third Division" and a number of regular units of the 4th Army corps strongly supported by US artillery and air force.

In addition, the US aggressors launched the U Minh campaign aimed at pacifying and encroaching upon the liberated zone in the Mekong Delta and made preparations to attack the Viet Nam — Cambodia — Laos borderland.

However, all these efforts fizzled out and fell short of their expectations. On the Highway 9 — Khe Sanh — Southern Laos front, the 30,000 mobile troops of the Saigon army propped up by 15,000 GIs were heavily clobbered, marking a high in the disintegration of that army: on this front over 20,000 enemy troops were put out of action, over 1,000 others captured, 700 aircraft downed, over 1,000 military vehicles (500 tanks and armoured cars) destroyed or seized by the patriots. Northeast of Cambodia, the enemy licked the dust in Operation "Total Victory 1-71" carried out by one multi-battalion unit, one armoured regiment, 21 infantry battalions and 12 armoured squadrons wiped out (15,000 casualties), 200 aircraft downed or destroyed, 1,300 military vehicles (600 tanks and armoured cars) and 100 heavy guns put out of commission. The U Minh campaign also ended in fiasco: 7,500 Saigon troops killed or wounded, many battalions, multi-battalion units and riverine task forces written off or heavily depleted and the operation wound up ahead of schedule. The onset against the tri-borderland was called off.

Thus the US imperialists failed in their strategic objective and in their ambitious military plan.

In the flush of their victory, the South Viet Nam people promoted the initiative of operations, they hammered at the enemy in the Western High Plateaux, Tri — Thien — Hue and Nam Bo. The people's war gained great momentum in the plains of Central Trung Bo and in the Mekong Delta. Regarding the military situation, AFP wrote on June 26, 1971: "After Operation Lam Son 719 in Southern Laos, the South Vietnamese troops have taken repeated beatings. The government positions in the Western High Plateaux, near the tri-borderland, were stormed and artillery base No 6, 18 km from there, fell into the enemy's hands. The adverse onsets in the Western High Plateaux, around artillery base No 5 continued till last week. Today military operations have resumed fierce than ever on the northern front on the enemy's initiative. Viet Cong made heavy attacks in the provinces of Phu Yen and Vinh Binh, and the situation is deteriorating. Though at that time, the High Command said that six weeks would be needed to know the outcome of the Southern Laos operation, some leaders are now in a position to assess that the military situation has been worsening."

AFTER their debacle on the Highway 9—Southern Laos front and in the northeast of Cambodia, the enemy dug in their defence line to ward off further PLAF blows, and did their utmost to swell the ranks of the puppet army. However, since then they have not been able to mount any sizeable action but have been on the defensive everywhere.

In **Tri — Thien — Hue,** they endeavoured to consolidate their defence line north of Quang Tri, from Lao Bao to the A So valley. As occupation troops were lacking, mobile strategic forces were sent in to set up enclaves; for instance, the marines were garrisoned on the hills north of Quang Tri. But, in this area, both the occupation troops and rescue parties took heavy thrashings. Many battalions of Saigon marines were either knocked out or badly mauled at Dong Che, Hill 544... Morale was sagging; the enemy troops did not trust each other and had no confidence in their commanders and in the GIs stationed near them.

In the **Western High Plateaux,** the US imperialists and quislings clung to their defence belt running from Dakto (Kontum) to Phu Nhon (Darlac) and from March 1971 forward, they have been in a great quandary. They dispatched units of the "Second Army Corps" and the para brigade (not yet brought up to strength after the Southern Laos reverse), to the rescue of artillery bases No 5 and No 6, at Phu Nhon. But the bigger the number of troops called in, the heavier their losses: in a short space of time 12 battalions were destroyed. This was a staggering blow at the enemy perimeter in the Western High Plateaux at a time when their military situation was growing from bad to worse.

In the plains in **Central** and **South Trung Bo,** the US imperialists and puppets lay low in their fortifications but could not stave off the repeated punishing strikes of the PLAF. Many military sub-sectors, training centres, and logistic depots were hard hit. Even in their "pacified" areas, they admitted that "Viet Cong were still very powerful and their bases solid."

In **Eastern Nam Bo,** heavy raids were staged by the PLAF on the enemy defence line north and north west of Saigon. In the first four months of 1971, already 12,000 adverse soldiers (nearly 2,000 US and satellite troops) were put out of action east of Nam Bo. The patriotic forces grew more and more combative while the enemy retreated. From the northeast of Cambodia, they fell back to defend that important front but found themselves in dire straits.

In the **Mekong Delta,** they had to end the U Minh operation so as to have enough strength to cope with guerilla war are now flaring up there, but their predicament was beyond remedy. Hundreds of posts were overrun or had to be evacuated, whole companies or platoons were neatly wiped out. The popular movement in enemy controlled areas was mounting. Tens of thousands of people wrested back control in West Nam Bo, over 650 "strategic hamlets" were dismantled.

The military situation in South Viet Nam in the last few months has shown that the US imperialists have further lost their strategic initiative and their strength has been downgrading. Through tests on the battlefield, "Vietnamization" has proved to be a serious flop. The crack armed forces of the enemy have been heavily depleted. Many of their tactics have shown their inefficiency.

DEFEATISM has been corroding the morale of the puppet troops and of the GIs fed up with the war. Clearly the US aggressors and their quislings' position has been seriously deteriorating chiefly since their rout in Highway 9 — Southern Laos and in the Northeast of Cambodia. The French paper *The Nation* wrote: "Half of the Vietnamization battle has been lost." The repeated setbacks on the battlefields and the sinking morale of the puppet troops, including the strategic mobile forces, have boomeranged a great deal on the "pacification" forces of the Saigon administration. The "pacification" program is facing great difficulties.

Whatever their exertions to wriggle out of their fix may be, the bankruptcy of "Vietnamization" is a foregone conclusion.

Having won successes of military and political strategic significance the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are determined to bring the resistance war against US aggression to a new height.

THANH HONG

HERE'S THE REAL STRENGTH OF THE SO-CALLED "ESAF"!

# Strong Condemnation

*Editor's Note —. Together with their armed forces and war materia's, the US imperialists have introduced into South Viet Nam a depraved culture to pervert our people's minds. Such deeds have aroused high indignation among people from all walks of life.*

*Below are some opinions prevailing in Saigon.*

*

## THE WAR HAS BROUGHT IN A KIND OF GUTTER CULTURE

"One of the greatest scourges for our nation is pornographic literature, especially American 'skin' magazines plentifully found on sale.

... Pictures of nude women, cartoons with smutty captions, inflammatory novels and music, all that has been extensively contaminating the youth. War has imported in this country a gutter literature which turns our people away from realities, from the heart-rending scenes occurring daily and hourly on this land...

A young generation is now slipping headlong into debauchery to become an army of youths corroded by syphilis... A new wave of lewdness is now rising not only among youths, but in many other strata of the people. Apart from the pornographic literature produced by hack-writers who almost openly glorify depravation, there is an unwholesome and maudlin music and wild and alien songs reflecting a rotten corrupted urban society, which is pushing a nation into sickness and death..."

Mrs NGUYEN THANH NHAN

## A CATCHING DISEASE FROM THE USA

In its June 8 issue, *Dan Y* (People's Will) wrote: "It's the US which has introduced and created a depraved (urban) society in South Viet Nam and perverted the youth.

"Hundreds of thousands of American GIs," *Dan Chu Moi* (New Democracy) wrote on May 31, "have introduced into South Viet Nam urban centres perversion and the most corrupt way of Western life, turning tens of thousands of youths into may-flies dazzled by a depraved life. Corruption has spread to all South Viet Nam urban society; it is an infectious disease brought in from the US to deprave a Vietnamese youth without ideal..."

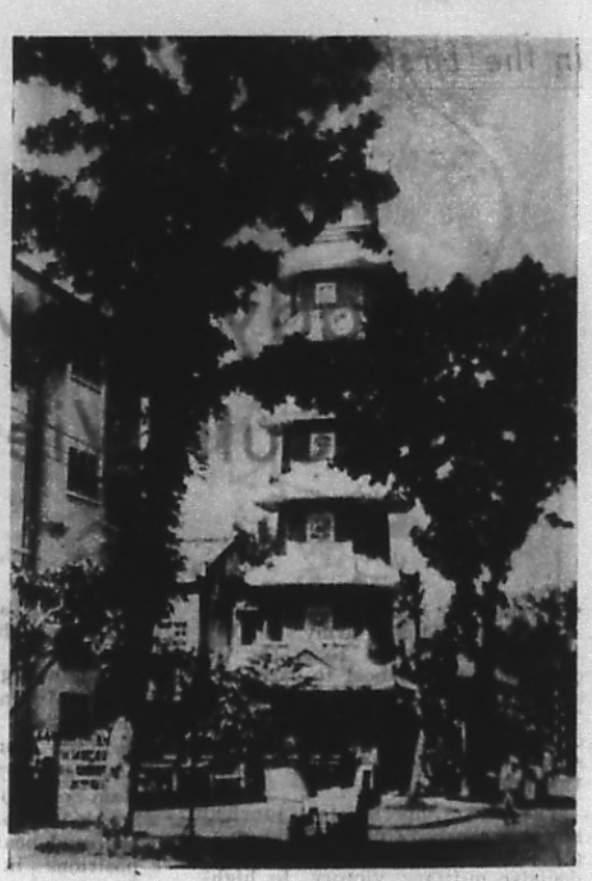
*Dan Chu Moi* said on June 11: "The dailies have written much about pot addiction which has become a familiar mode of life. Many schoolboys and students in Saigon and other big towns have been taking marijuana, opium and other drugs during the last few years..." "...Ironically enough, it is precisely those who detain power, the "big wigs," the MPs and influential foreign residents" who are responsible for the presence of drugs in South Viet Nam."

## "RETURN TO VIET NAM HER NATIONAL CULTURE"

"Daily, we eat imported rice and live on American aid. Every evening we see sexy dances on T.V. screens and hear the kind of music for 'lovers' who dance and shout in each other's face. We live in an imperialistic atmosphere, because all these things are products brought in by the imperialists with an imperialistic bad design; however we still remember we are Vietnamese fed with fragrant Vietnamese rice, imbued with Vietnamese sentiments and hearing Vietnamese racy tunes. Viet Nam's national culture should be restored."

(A Saigonese student)

*In constrast with enemy temporarily-held areas, a healthy joyful cultural life has been promoted in the liberated zone*



*This is also a "military target" of the US aggressors! How many such pagodas in this country have been bombed or burned down by them?*

## DESTROY ALL HYBRID CULTURAL HOTBED!

A dead body is not so dangerous as a dead soul. Because of specific historical conditions over the past twenty-five years, our people have had to fight two long wars of resistance against foreign aggressors who have been scheming to impose their domination on our beloved fatherland and... the urban centres have unfortunately been bridgeheads for foreigners in this country. That is why urban society in South Viet Nam has been exposed to serious diseases caused by cultural microbes coming from outside with an attempt to hold spiritual sway over the townsfolk and to crush all their resistance spirit so as to turn them into slaves or worse still into 'biped animals.' The consequence of these cultural bacilli spread in the urban society by hack-writers is known to everyone. The havoc it has played among youths is terrifying. We are at a loss whether the poor and teratogenic picture of a young generation out of touch with the past and uncertain about the future has been able to awaken cultural workers who advocate a purely national culture but still have hazy notions about it!...

The sufferings undergone by the country are left in no doubt. The confrontation is between foreigners and our people, between the few who repress and exploit the many and the latter who are now rising up in indignation...

The question is clear. No confusion, no illusion is possible. Realizing this, the youth are now resolved to stand up together with the rest of the people and fight with their pens to defend the national culture and men's rights against all forms of foreign culture and all attempts to change man into a slave.

With the grim determination of the youth marching today to the front, we call on the zeal and enthusiasm of you all, students, pupils, cultural workers and fellow-countrymen alike.

TRUONG DUONG
Saigonese student

## END U.S. RULE!

"Culture is the result of strenuous efforts made by a people to build a life worthy of man, of his nature the consciousness of which he has acquired through his struggle with nature for survival. Culture is all the data and formulae devised by the collectivity to satisfy their material requirements such as food, clothing and housing, and more elevated ones such as the search for beauty, the truth and the good.

Culture is not only such spiritual activities as literature and arts, philosophy, science, religion, but also all the way of life of a people when it aims at realizing an ideal cherished by that people all through their long existence. Culture is the spiritual mirror, the incomparable dignity of a people..., it turns rather towards the future than towards the past because it is intimately woven into life, and life is constantly directed towards the future. Of course it does not deny the past but relies on it to shape a more and more brilliant future...

Thanks to culture, a people exists on the earth as a single entity; this entity is the raison d'être of a nation.

... The cultural front is one of the facets of the struggle of a people against foreign aggression... I want to say that in that fight, culture is the basis which we must protect as the apples of our eyes because it gives us the deepest and most legitimate motivation for our struggle.

... What we want to protect is not only this strip of land with its resources, not only the life and existence of our fellow-countrymen, but most indispensable of all, the ideal which we want to achieve, the right for us and our children to live on this land, that is the very culture of our people.

In the face of the US imperialists' aggression, our struggle in the cultural field is an urgent task if we do not want to become one day 'yellow-skinned Americans', with even an inferior status to the American negroes'...

The point is not to curse the US but to put an end to US domination over our country, to end the Americanization of our people so that all of us can get rid of the prejudices generated by foreigners and can look at one another and recognize each other as Vietnamese."

Professor LY CHANH CHUNG

# A Proposal Resplendent with Justice and Goodwill

ON June 22, 1971, Prince Souphavouvong, Chairman of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee, put forward a new peace proposal in two points: to enforce an immediate cease-fire throughout Laos including the US cessation of bombing, and the Lao interested parties to meet right after the cease-fire in order to discuss all matters of common concern.

Following the March 6, 1970 five-point plan and the April 27, 1971 peace proposal, this was the third concrete initiative by the Lao Patriotic Front to settle the Lao problem peacefully. Such sustained efforts have sprung from the Front's consideration for the legitimate interests and eager aspirations of the Lao people, for peace and national concord in Laos, for the interest of peace in Indochina and the world.

As everybody knows, for many years the US imperialists have been waging an aggressive war on the Lao people. Under the Nixon administration, the USA has been intensifying and extending it, thereby creating an extremely explosive situation in Laos. Especially since 1970, it has been throwing the rightist army, the Vang Pao bandits and the Thai mercenaries to a series of large-scale operations on the liberated zone in Northern Laos. Operation "Lam Son 719" with over 40,000 US and Saigon troops in Highway 9 — Southern Laos was the apex of the reckless war escalation of the Nixon administration in Laos. The air war of destruction has also been stepped up, with 800—1,000 sorties a day of various planes including B.52s which drop thousands of tons of bombs. On US orders, the Thanom Praphas clique has kept on sending Thai mercenaries into Laos and massing Thai units along the border in a state of readiness to invade this country, helping the US effort to intensify and broaden the aggressive war and implement the "Nixon doctrine" to use Asians to fight Asians."

Despite their heavy setbacks throughout Laos, particularly on Highway 9 and the Boloven Plateaux (Southern Laos), the US imperialists have obdurately been pushing up their air attacks against Laos and hurling their mercenaries against the liberated zone; at the same time, they have been stubbornly sabotaging the peaceful settlement of the Lao problem and trying to materialize their dream of turning Laos into a military base and neo-colony of theirs in an attempt to prolong and extend the aggressive war throughout Indochina.

It is crystal clear that the USA is the aggressor of Laos. The US policy of aggression is at the origin of the Lao people's sufferings. Therefore, to settle the Lao problem peacefully, the USA must end it aggression, and in the first place unconditionally stop all bombings of the Lao territory in order to achieve a cease-fire in Laos and make it possible for the parties concerned to discuss the restoration of peace and national concord, as suggested by the Lao Patriotic Front.

However, it is most regrettable that all the untiring efforts of the Front have been set to nought by the Vientiane authorities at US instigation. On the other hand, taking up the cudgels for the US imperialists, the Vientiane extremist reactionaries have repeatedly misrepresented the legitimate struggle of the Lao people and the goodwill of the Lao Patriotic Front, so as to drag out the war for their selfish interests.

The South Vietnamese people warmly hail and fully support the just position and the fair and reasonable peace proposal of the Lao Patriotic Front. If the US imperialists and the Vientiane authorities flouting the initiative full of goodwill of the Front, obdurately protract and widen the aggressive war in Laos, they will certainly meet with still heavier and shameful failures.

True to the joint communique of the Summit Conference of the Indochinese Peoples, the South Vietnamese people resolutely back the valiant fight of the Lao people under the leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front against the US imperialists and their lackeys to defend Lao sacred national rights and build a genuinely peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, reunified and prosperous country.

*This Lao youngster who had just joined the Lao Liberation Army has become an outstanding guerilla in Boloven area*

*US chemical poisons have affected dozens of bonzes of Khmer nationality in Nam Bo*

# International Investigation Commission Scores US War Crimes

THE second session of the International Commission for Investigation of US War Crimes in Indochina met in Oslo from June 20 to 24, 1971, Norwegian press reported.

Among those present were all the executive members of the Commission and many doctors, lawyers, well-known personalities and the delegations of the Indochinese countries.

It heard reports on the activities of the Commission since its first session and those of many delegates and witnesses including American delegate Don Luce and four Viet Nam veterans.

On June 24, in a statement unanimously adopted, the Commission concluded:

"The policy of the US government has led to the extension of its war of aggression in Indochina." In this process "the United States has been gearing its highly developed industrial technology to the development of ever more sophisticated methods of destruction" and "chemical warfare has remained one of the most atrocious features of the US warfare."

There was evidence that "poison gases have been used against the civilian population" and "millions of civilians have been forcibly deported to be concentrated in camps." More than a third of South Viet Nam population have become refugees as a consequence of mass bombings and destroy missions and it was obvious that "mass deportation is official US policy."

There were also testimonies about US brutalities in prison and unwarranted arrests and the most wretched prison regime in South Viet Nam.

The US criminal acts mentioned above violate the Hague Conventions of 1907, the 1925 Geneva Protocol banning asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacteriological means of warfare, the 1929 and 1949 Geneva Conventions on the improvement of the conditions of the wounded and sick of armies in the field, as well as the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of the civilian persons in time of war.

These crimes must be "categorized as war crimes and crimes against humanity according to the Nuremberg principles of international law" and have proved that "the conclusion of the first session that the United States war in Indochina was genocide was correct."

The Commission pointed out that "Vietnamization" was only a means to prolong a losing war which can only be continued at a frightful cost for the peoples of Indochina "and the peoples of Indochina must have the right and the possibility to settle their own affairs without foreign interference in accordance with their fundamental national rights."

The Commission appealed to all men, organizations, and governments to militate for an immediate cessation of the US war of aggression against the Indochinese peoples and the prompt complete withdrawal of US and allied forces.

# World Continued Support for PRG New Peace Bid

"WORLD opinion pays great attention to the new proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam." "The new peace initiative of the PRG of the RSVN has produced deep repercussions," commented the paper **Al Bass** (Syria) on July 4 and **Al Sahafa** (Sudan) on July 6.

In point of fact, as Mr **Jesus Montane**, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party said, the seven points put forth by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh on July 1, 1971 at the Paris Conference were "an international development of paramount importance, warmly welcomed in the world."

In its statement dated July 7, the **Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia** said: "These new proposals fully answer the legitimate aspirations of the Vietnamese people for peace and independence and the longing for peace of the American and world peoples."

On July 3, the **Central Committee of the Lao Patriotic Front** pointed out that they "make possible the prompt release and return to their families of the American militarymen captured in North Viet Nam, they meet the pressing demand of the anti-war movement in the US itself" and "pave the way to an honourable way out for the US government."

Receiving the delegation of South Vietnamese patriotic and democratic journalists on July 7 in Santiago (Chile), President **Allende** expressed his warm support and highly appreciated the offer as a sound and flexible gesture.

On July 2, **Ivan Bashev**, Foreign Minister of Bulgaria, said he "wholeheartedly backs the seven points of the PRG of the RSVN" and underlined that "these skilful and timely proposals conform to sense and sentiment."

On July 6, **Krister Vikman**, Swedish Foreign Minister, released a statement welcoming the new peace overture and said that "the condition for a political settlement is meaningful negotiations between both sides. In this respect the present seven-point proposal is of great significance."

In the US, according to the *New York Times* of July 4, the new peace move of the PRG of the RSVN was at once well received in Congress.

On July 5, Senators **McGovern** and **Hatfield** demanded that Nixon immediately make clear his position *vis à vis* the PRG plan. *UPI* quoted on July 6 influential Congressmen of the Republican and Democratic Parties as foreseeing that should Nixon turn down the PRG new offer he would run the risk of being let down by his supporters. The House of Representatives was ready to pass, together with the Senate, a resolution on the withdrawal of all US troops from South Viet Nam in case Nixon rejected the proposals.

The **Committee of American Deserters** in Sweden announced its wholehearted welcome to the seven points, and underlined that if Nixon was really concerned about peace, he would find in the new move (of the PRG) an honourable way to pull out US troops and end the war. Such valuable and honourable proposals deserve a valuable and honourable answer."

In Scandinavia, a widespread and multiform support unknown so far has been voiced for the PRG suggestions.

Political and mass organizations in **Sweden, Denmark, Finland** have staged, in this connection, many meetings and demonstrations in the capitals and big cities to press for the US government's serious response.

The Support Viet Nam Committees and mass organizations of these countries have made public resolutions urging the US to set a deadline for the withdrawal of all GIs from South Viet Nam, stop supporting the Saigon bellicose junta headed by Nguyen Van Thieu and begin serious talks with the other side on the basis of the new peace offer. They called on the Scandinavian and world peoples to step up their support to the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples and decided to continue calling big rallies to increase pressure on Nixon.

Many international organizations also made statements or sent telegrams hailing the new proposal of the PRG of the RSVN. The **World Peace Council** declared: The seven points is a new contribution to the movement for peace and freedom in Indochina, it will be hailed by the peace forces throughout the world and the World Peace Council will do its best to secure international support for this proposal."

Over the last few days, the PRG new peace initiative has been the main topic in the international press.

Broadcasting stations, TV and newspapers of socialist countries and other countries have given prominence to the seven points and run editorials and comments welcoming them and exposing the perfidy and obduracy of the US bellicose rulers.

**Rodong Shinmun** (DPR Korea) wrote on July 6: "The seven-point proposal made by the PRG of the RSVN is aimed at ousting US imperialism from South Viet Nam, achieving national independence and liberating the country, at the same time it is a legitimate and sensible plan to peacefully settle the Viet Nam problem. Obviously, it is US imperialism which is the only one to prosecute the war of aggression in Viet Nam and the only obstacle for a fair settlement of the Viet Nam issue."

Hailing the PRG new proposals, **Scinteia** (Romania) commented on July 4: "The new proposals open up a real and concrete prospect for the settlement of the war in that part of the world, an aim of the peace movement. Their acceptance is an imperative necessity of international activities to bring about peace in heroic Viet Nam."

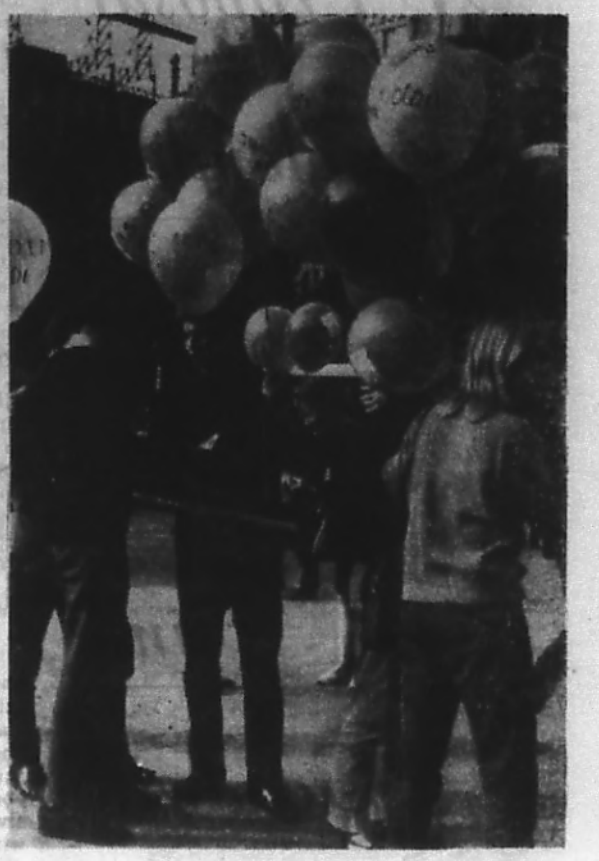
The **Combattant** (Algeria) wrote on July 3: "It's for the sake of peace that the PRG of the RSVN has just put forth its seven points"... "It must be pointed out that in the last two years the Paris conference has been stalemated by the dilatory manoeuvres of Washington and Saigon representatives."

The **Egyptian News** (UAR) affirmed: "It is now high time to end the war. Refusal to fix a deadline for US troop pullout is sheer folly."

The **New York Times** editorialized on July 6 that the seven points contained a new basic factor enabling the US to pull out all US troops and settle the problem of American prisoners.

The **Washington Post**, The **Baltimore Sun**, **Newsweek** are at one to say that the new peace initiative is likely to break the deadlock at the Paris Conference and open the way to peace in Viet Nam.

Parallel with the pressure of world opinion demanding that Nixon promptly answer the PRG seven points, repatriate all GIs and drop the Saigon ruling junta headed by Nguyen Van Thieu, the **Nouvel Observateur** on July 5 asked Nixon the following question: "In the forthcoming weeks, will the US receive guidance from Saigon or Washington?" It went on to say that despite all dodges by Nixon, the Vietnamese people, the world's peoples as well as the American people will be able at last to accomplish everything including peace.



"Actions ballons" in *Brussels'* streets

# Good Wishes to the Republic of Iraq

*THE Republic of Iraq is going to be 13 years old. Its emergence on July 14, 1958 in the Middle East crowned the Iraq people's protracted and arduous struggle against the cruel domination of king Faisal and the Nouri Said reactionary government, lackeys of the US-British imperialists, a significant contribution to the development of the national liberation movement in this area and in the whole world.*

*Soon after it was born and entered the Third World with its policy of active neutrality, it dealt the imperialists a staggering blow by brecking the aggressive Bagdad bloc led by the United States.*

*Over the past 13 years, Iraq has been pursuing its policy of peace and active neutrality. It has sided with the Arab countries for the liberation of the Arab peoples in general, and the emancipation of the Palestine Arab in particular against the Israeli aggressors, lackeys of the US imperialists. Its rupture of diplomatic relations with USA in June 1967 and its recent expulsion of three British diplomats were strikingly indicative of its resolute stand against imperialism, colonialism old and new headed by US imperialism. At present, Iraq continues to associate herself with other Arab countries in their grim battle to settle the Middle East problem on the basis of respect for the national rights of the Palestinian people, and Arab sovereignty and territorial integrity.*

*In the consolidation of her national independence and building of a prosperous country, Iraq has been making many successful endeavours. The Iraq people have foiled all sabotage and subversive plots of the imperialists with the US at their head, and wrested back many rights on their oil resources, formerly controlled by foreign capitalist monopolies.*

*Fighting in the same ditch against US-led imperialism and colonialism, the South Vietnamese people warmly hail the firm stand against imperialism put up by the Iraq people and government and the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, wholeheartedly greeted their achievements over the past 13 years of defending and building their country.*

*The South Vietnamese people are particularly gratified at the ever stronger militant solidarity and friendship between the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Republic of Iraq. On many occasions the Iraq people and government and the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party have reaffirmed their sympathy and support to the legitimate liberation struggle of the South Vietnamese people. The Republic of Iraq was one of the first countries to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. Diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the two countries were agreed upon during the friendly visit to the Republic of Iraq by Le Quang Chanh, special envoy of the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in November 1969. Those are memorable events which vigorously stimulate the South Vietnamese people's fight against US aggression.*

*On this great festive day of the fraternal Iraqi people, the South Vietnamese people convey to the Iraq people and government and the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, assurances of their sincere gratitude and heartfelt affection. We wish the Iraq people still greater successes in the consolidation of their national independence and building of a prosperous country which will make an active contribution to the movement of independence, peace, democracy and social progress in the world.*

*May the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese and Iraq peoples grow stronger with each passing day.*